



Contact: Fiona Langenberger
808-725-5902
Veronika Molio'o Mata'utia Mortenson
684-633-6500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 29, 2014

Students from American Samoa Participate in Environmental and Cultural Exchange

Two students from American Samoa along with three students from Maunalua, O'ahu, participated in an environmental and cultural exchange this past week. The focus of the exchange program was to immerse the students in environmental and cultural education and awareness that is being promoted by the Polynesian Voyaging Society's Mālama Honua World Wide Voyage. At the end of August, the students from American Samoa will welcome the crew of the Hōkūle'a in Pago Pago, American Samoa, and support outreach and education efforts on the ground.

The group participated in a training sail with the Polynesian Voyaging Society to get hands-on practice and to learn more about traditional wayfinding. They also participated in traditional gift making activities which will be taken on the Hōkūle'a to share along the voyage. In addition, the group visited He'eia Fishpond to take part in a service project and to find out how fishponds were used traditionally. The Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology on Coconut Island offered a special laboratory tour and the students joined a behind the scene tour of Sea Life Park, Hanauma Bay and Bishop Museum.

Staff from the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa and the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary coordinated the weeklong experience with the support of Mālama Maunalua and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

The sanctuary is administered by a partnership of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the State of Hawai'i through the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). The sanctuary works to protect humpback whales through research, education, conservation and stewardship. Join us on [Facebook](#).

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

DLNR's mission is to enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of visitors and the people of Hawaii nei in partnership with others from the public and private sectors. Join us on [Facebook](#).

On the Web:

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary: <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>
National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa: <http://americansamoa.noaa.gov/>
Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument: <http://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/>
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>
State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/>
Mālama Maunalua: <http://malamamaunalua.org/>